

who contributed ten cents had his or her name placed on the quilt. The late president, some time before his death, visited a friend of his, who is a member of our S. S. C. E. While there he contributed twenty cents and his and Mrs. McKinley's names were placed on the quilt, so we called it the "McKinley" quilt. We also had a quilting in connection with the dinner, and the quilts were sold privately as soon as they were finished. The net proceeds were about eighty-six dollars.

We are very thankful and feel very much encouraged with the success we have had. We have a good society, altho it is not so large. Most of the sisters are earnest workers and their labors are crowned with success.

GRACE CLAPPAR, Sec.

Philadelphia, Pa.

Thank you Brother Gnagey for the kind words soliciting my pen to lead these columns each week. Most gladly would I respond had I such news that I am proud to bring you this week. Yes, we now have two Sisters' Societies in Philadelphia. Last week we organized number two, here at the Mission with Mrs. Bowman as president. It was under her presidency the Philadelphia S. S. C. E. has made herself so strongly felt in the various departments of the Lord's work. With Mrs. Bowers to assist her, Miss Lovett to keep a record of what is done and Mrs. Bodily to take charge of the money, may we not expect many helpful deeds as a result of the more systematic work for the Master?

The sewing circle of the new S. S. C. E. began to work on Tuesday afternoon and will be continued the same time each week. This gives an opportunity to be a Dorcas, plying the needle for the poor. We shall now be able to better employ the latent talent of those who attend our meetings. Brother Cassel joined and paid his dues for the whole year.

Five of our thirty S. S. C. E. members are from one family—father, mother and three children. They are poor but their dues (ten cents a month) come first, tho they are not members of Brethren church. The most encouraging testimony given yet at the Mission was from the father of this family. Discouraged and struggling to recover from a long siege of sickness, he began to attend our meetings. Brother Bowman's songs touched him. He remembered other days when he received ten dollars every time he sang. A few nights ago he said when he first came he thought he was a Christian but soon discovered his mistake and changed. Instead of the old look of uncertain despair his face expresses the joy and contentment of Jesus' love. One soul inspired with hope, one home made happier! Is it worth while?

As much greater this is than material gain, just so much above the financial part would we ever hold devotional feature of the S. S. C. E. Sister Deitz rightly emphasizes this

in her letter last week. Some of our good practical sisters see a danger in this emphasis and fear a corresponding decrease in the funds. Not so! True devotional exercises develop our spirituality which must show itself in works doing for our Master because the strengthened love prompts us, and giving because we delight to please whom we love. Write again Sister Deitz.

Who will follow the report of Ashland S. S. C. E.? Take courage, timid sister, and remember that if an S. S. C. E. can succeed in a mission, it surely can prosper in your church. It is not so much what can we do but what can He do thru us?

VIANNA DETWILER

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## Our Young People

### OBEDIENCE

1 Sam. 15: 22, 23; 1 Kings 3: 14; Rev. 22: 14

Topic for Sunday, February 23.

#### • HOME READINGS

Monday, February 17, Obey your parents, Ephesians 6: 1-4.

Tuesday, February 18, Obey your rulers, Romans 13: 1-7.

Wednesday, February 19, Obey God, Josh. 23: 1-11.

Thursday, February 20, Obedience rewarded, Deuteronomy 11: 22-28.

Friday, February 21, Disobedience punished, Deuteronomy 28: 15-20.

Saturday, February 22, The first disobedience, Genesis 3: 1-19.

Obedience is a great word. It is one of the first words we must learn in life and one which will never be done away. It is first also in importance. There can be no physical life without obedience to the laws of nature. There can be no social life

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without obedience to the laws of society, and there can be no spiritual life without obedience to the moral imperative of God. Disobedience to the right brings swift destruction, but obedience brings life eternal. "He that doeth the will of God abideth forever." 1 John 2: 17

#### SCRIPTURE HELP

1. Obedience is the cure of doubt. John 7: 17; Mal. 3: 10. This is the first truth. Many reject Christ professing to be unable to believe certain things. If such will begin to keep the commandments of God they will soon find faith in those commandments. There is a whole sermon in this thought.

Are sceptics as a rule willing to obey the truth when they see it?

Is it necessary to understand everything in the Bible before beginning to serve God?

2. Obedience is the organ of spiritual vision. John 7: 17; Psalms 111: 10; Psalms 119: 98 100.

This truth is no less important than the first. It should have an abiding place in our meditations. There is absolutely no way of learning the will of God without obeying what we do know of it. Spiritual things can only be discerned by spiritual men and spiritual men are impossible without obedience. In underground streams are fish whose eyes have degenerated into mere holes because of lack of use.

Does lack of obedience cause loss of spiritual vision? Why?

3. Obedience is the source of joy and strength. Isaiah 40: 31; John 4: 32-34.

Jesus never sulked and never had "the blues." The consciousness of having absolutely done our best to be obedient brings peace. The responsibility for results then remains with God and we need lose no strength in worry. Every act of obedience is a wing to bear us aloft to God.

Why are so many church members so easily discouraged?

Can we have joy in all our work for God?

4. Obedience is the expression of faith and love. John 14: 21.